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JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 JUL 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Int. Appl. No. : PCT/JP2004/000058  
Int. Filing Date : January 8, 2004

Application No. : N/A Confirmation No. N/A  
Applicant : Hideo Hata et al.  
Filed : Herewith  
TC/A.U. : N/A  
Examiner : N/A

Title : WATER-SWELLABLE CLAY MINERAL LAMINATED  
POWDER, DYE/WATER-SWELLABLE CLAY MINERAL  
COMPLEX AND COMPOSITION COMPRISING THE  
SAME

Docket No. : IWI-16117  
Customer No. : 7609

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.